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SRI K. M. SEETHI SAHIB :—" May I know, Sir, whether there were reports made by the Medical Officer in charge of the Hospital that the stock of medicines was inadequate and that it should be replenished? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, when such reports are received, medicines are sent."

Hosdurg-Panathady road.

* 730 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) when repairs were done last to the Hosdurg-Panathady road in Kasaragod taluk, South Kanara;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to improve this road; and

(c) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (a) The road is being regularly maintained by the District Board and this year also the maintenance work is in progress.

" (b) & (c) The work of metalling the first section of the road from mile 0/0 to 18/0 is under execution under the Post-war Road Development Plan. The work of improving the second section is included in the Five-year plan of Post-war Road Development and will be taken up for execution by the District Board as early as possible."

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" For the last two or three years, the bus service to Panathur was stopped during monsoon, because the road was not repaired. Will the Government give instructions to repair the road immediately so that when the next monsoon comes the bus service is not interrupted? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" The District Board has already repaired the road. So such inconveniences will not be caused in future, Sir."

Shoranur Metal Industries.

* 731 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state with reference to question No. 55 answered on 5th March 1954—

(a) whether the Government have arrived at any decision on the proposal to re-open the Shoranur Metal Industries, Limited, South Malabar; and

(b) if so, what it is?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) & (b) The Government considered that the financial condition of the Metal Industries, Limited, could not be rectified and that there was no likelihood of its profitable running as a business

concern according to the proposals submitted to them. The Government, therefore, rejected the scheme sent to them and have ordered the sale of the factory in public auction to realize the amount due to them.''

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—'' Is it a fact, Sir, that the Central Government have promised to give this Government a subsidy or help to the extent of a lakh of rupees so that the institution may not fail and that this Government is standing in the way of the Central Government's help?''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Sir, the Central Government offered to give an aid of a lakh of rupees as loan through the Madras Government if the Madras Government would undertake to take it from the Government of India and lend it to this concern. This Government have examined the whole position and discussed the matter with those who were interested in the running of the industry. The Government now find that it is no good giving further aid taking into account the present position of the industry. Therefore, Government have decided to bring the concern to auction. When it is sold in auction, then the aid of one lakh of rupees promised by the Government of India would be utilized for forming an industrial co-operative.''

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—'' This concern produced agricultural implements and tools of a particular variety suited to Malabar. Government have been saying that they are concentrating on the agricultural sector to increase the purchasing power of the people. Therefore, will the Government see to it that this only one concern in Malabar which caters to the special needs of Malabar and over the closure of which people of Malabar feel strongly, is given some substantial aid and see that it is not closed?''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' Sir, the Government are fully aware of the importance of this industry and are quite anxious to take any step that would lead to the revival of the industry. But, Sir, the Government do not believe in throwing good money after bad industries.''

DR. K. B. MENON :—'' As and when the factory is sold in auction, would the Government consider devoting the one lakh of rupees promised by the Central Government to organize a workshop in Shoranur and make it available for the skilled workers that are now available in plenty in that area?''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' No, Sir. When the concern is sold in auction, Government do hope that they can convert this concern into an industrial co-operative taking full advantage of the aid offered by the Government of India.''

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SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Sir, it is said that Shoranur is the Sheffield of India. That being so, will the Government think of taking over the factory and run it themselves? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I may tell the hon. Member, even in Sheffield, Government would not care to take over an industry if it is in the position of the industry in Shoranur."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions over."

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE PERSONS CONVICTED IN CONNECTION WITH MUDUKAD (KOOTHALI ESTATE) EVICTION.

MR. SPEAKER :—" Hon. Member Dr. K. B. Menon has given notice of an adjournment motion to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. The motion reads as follows :—

'I move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government to allow the evicted families to go back to their homes and for not releasing those arrested and convicted in connexion with Mudukad (Koothali Estate) eviction.'

" I remember to have admitted a question on this yesterday and I gave full time to the House to discuss that matter by putting supplementaries. I do not know how this comes under a matter of urgent public importance."

* DR. K. B. MENON :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House was fully apprised of the gravity of the situation when we walked out of the Assembly in the last sitting as a protest against the failure of the Government to allow families that have been in occupation of the land to continue to be in possession of those lands and in ordering their eviction on the ground that their title to the property was not quite good. Convinced as we were of the right of the families to retain possession of the property, we adopted the dual method of Satyagraha and of negotiation with the Government. Government after eviction of about 13 families saw the justice of the demand of the families and ordered stay of eviction proceedings and also asked Mr. Satthianathan, Member, Board of Revenue, to go and investigate all the problems connected with the Koothali Estate. It was also part of the agreement or understanding with the Government that the families evicted would be allowed to go back to their homes and also release all prisoners convicted in connexion with the Satyagraha. It was on these understandings that we called off the Satyagraha on the 11th. But the Government did neither. Thirteen families consisting of about 70 or 80 old men, women and children are now in the streets."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Let the hon. Member convince me that this matter comes under rule 41."